GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1472
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2004
DROPPING OF LIVE BOMB
Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Iskra trainer aircraft of the Indian Air Force accidently dropped a 25 pound live bomb near a village adjacent to Jamnagar Air Base in Gujarat on November 4, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry had been ordered to this incident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On 4th November, 2004, during a practice bomb live sortie by Iskra trainer aircraft over Sarmat range, the pilot experienced a failure of bomb release. The pilot carried out two more passes over the range but could not release the bomb. The pilot saw the bomb on the bomb carrier of the aircraft while flying back to the base. However after landing, the pilot noticed that the bomb was missing from the bomb carrier of the aircraft. Later on, the civil police reported that the bomb had fallen in an open field in Lakhabawal village, south of Jamnagar, Gujarat. A haystack had caught fire due to the bomb explosion. Compensation of Rs. 2000/- has been paid to the affected farmer.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the causes of this incident. The suspect Light Store Bomb Carrier has been sent for defect investigation.